

Path to Siva

A Catechism for Youth

Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami

CHED

THE SEE

Lesson 34



Why Is the Satguru So Important?

A satguru, an enlightened master who knows Truth



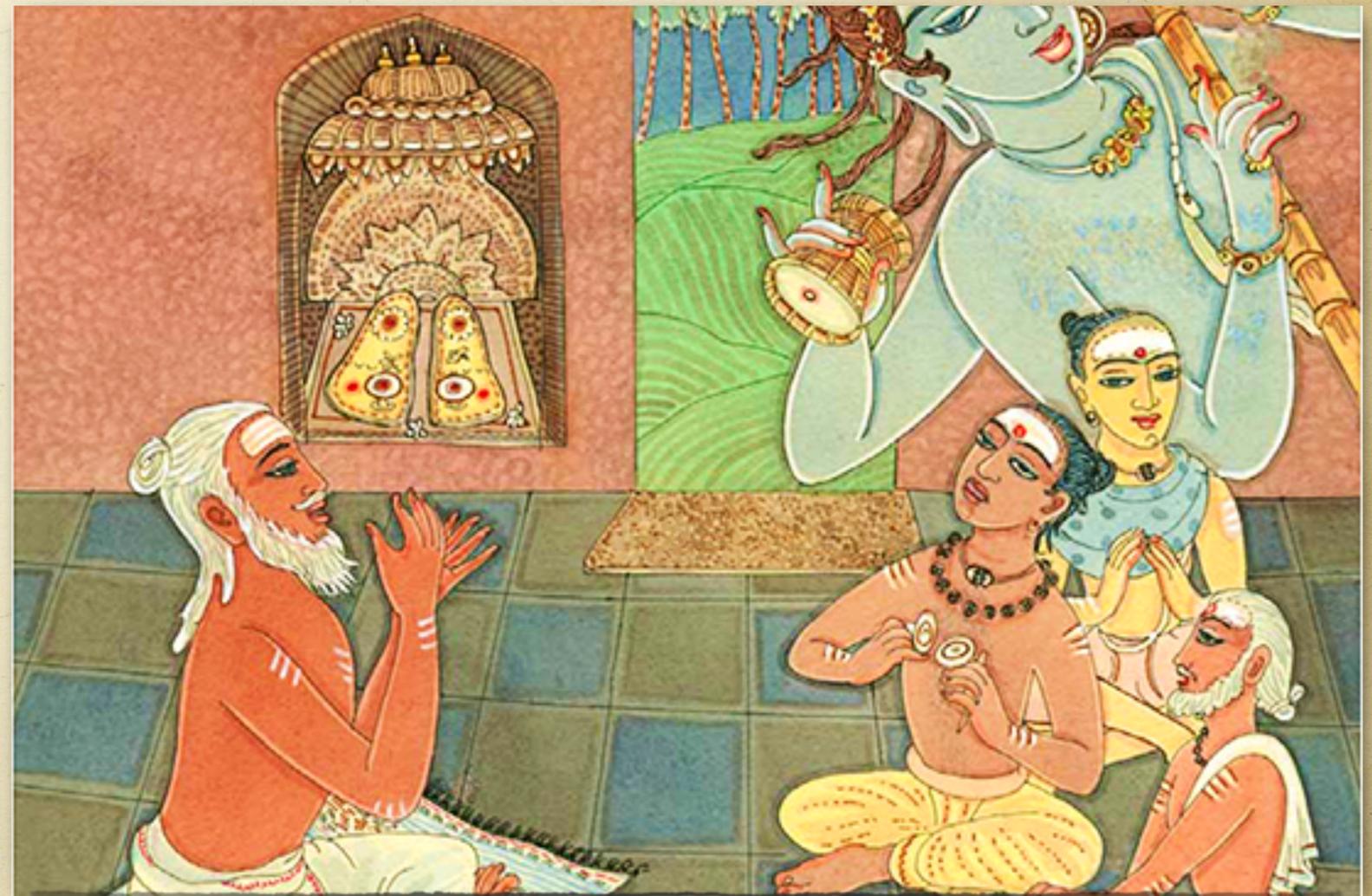
**Anyone hoping to climb
Mount Everest would
be wise to have a
Sherpa by his side, a
guide who has been
where you want to go.**

We should not be without a satguru...

Similarly, as we walk the spiritual path, we should not be without a satguru, an enlightened master who knows Truth and can take us there.

The word *guru* means “teacher.”

Anyone you are studying with may be called a guru, such as a dance guru, music guru or a classroom teacher.



A teacher is important in any area of study

A teacher is important in any area of study, because it is difficult for us to see our own weaknesses, but easy for a trained expert.

Your mother and father are your first gurus.

Many Hindus have a satguru, a teacher of *sat*, or truth.



A satguru is a mature soul who has realized God

A satguru is a mature soul who has realized God and is able to lead others along the path.

Siva is within each of us, shining out through our eyes.

But Siva shines out from the satguru more brightly, because he or she is pure and enlightened.



Thus, we worship the satguru as Siva Himself.

The satguru is devoted full time to religious life, to upholding Saivism and helping his devotees.

Just by living and being, he or she brings peace and blessings to the world.

A satguru is always a sannyasin, one who is unmarried and has renounced all possessions, personal life, family and friends.

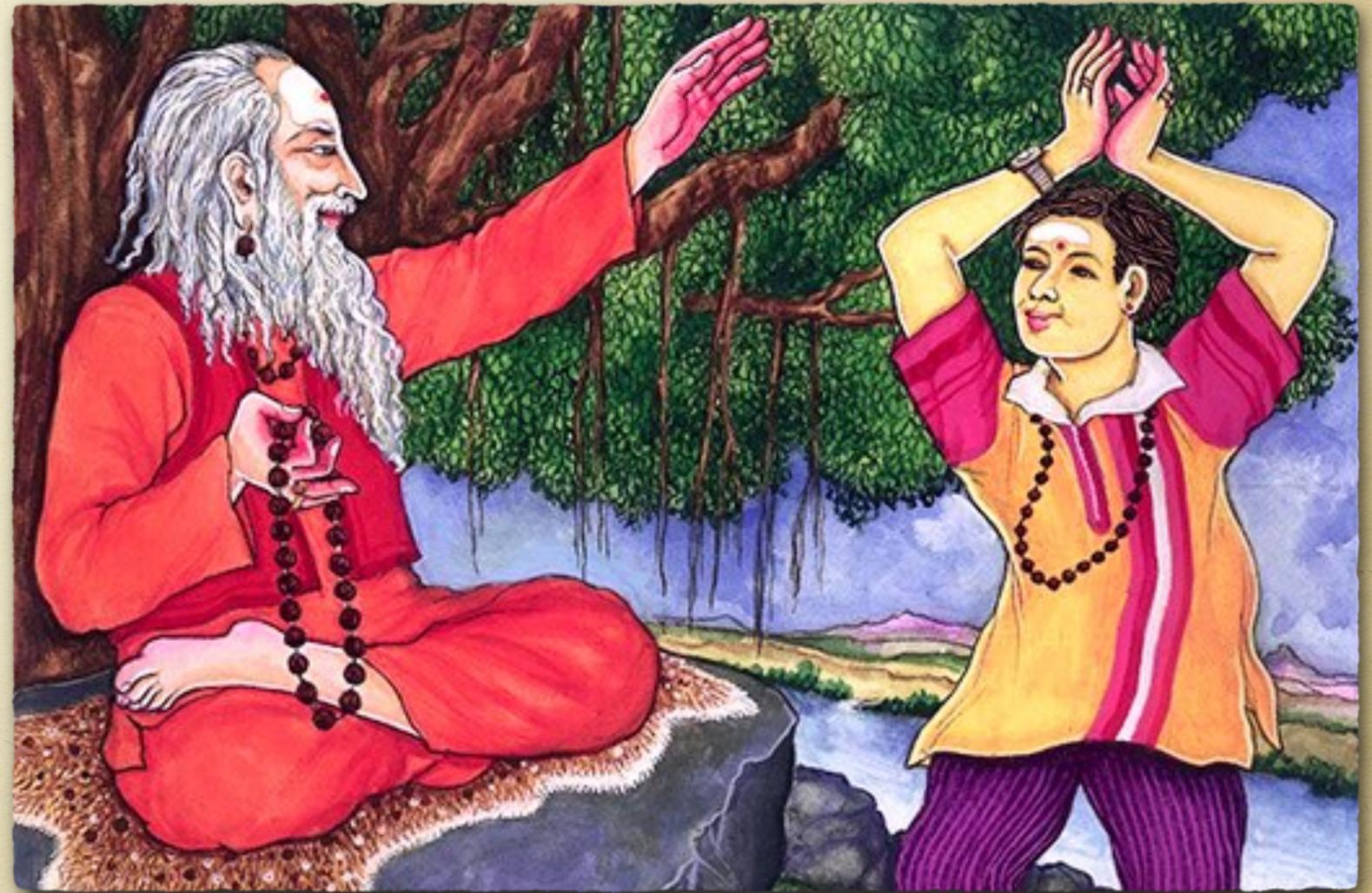


Initiation from his Guru

A rare initiation from his guru empowered him with the highest spiritual knowledge and authority.

This is Siva's revealing grace, *anugraha shakti*, in action.

If your family has a satguru to guide it, you are indeed fortunate.



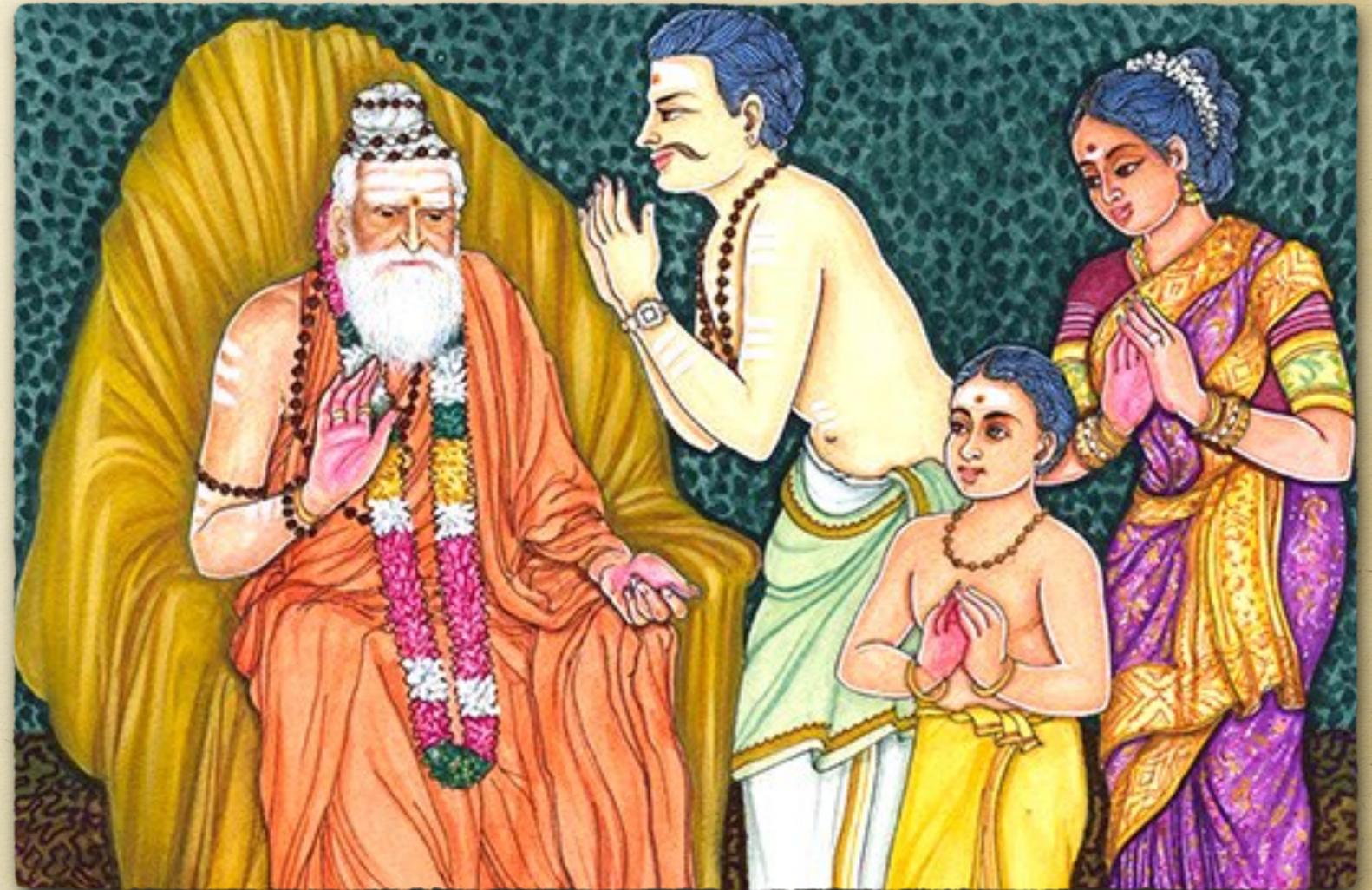
The Guru will share his wisdom

He can wisely advise your parents and keep the family strong, harmonious and spiritually alive.

Get to know him.

Talk to him and ask questions.

He will share his wisdom and help you draw close to God.



Gurudeva says...

The satguru is the devotee's spiritual guide and preceptor, friend and companion on the path.

Having become religion's consummation, the satguru can see where others are and know what their next step should be.

A satguru is needed because the mind is so cunning and the ego is a self-perpetuating mechanism.

It is he who inspires, assists, guides and impels the shishya toward the Self of himself.



QUESTIONS for Lesson 35



35.1 The word guru means “teacher.” Anyone you are studying with may be called a guru, such as a dance guru, music guru or a classroom teacher

- True
- False

35.2 A Satguru is a teacher of sat or truth.
(Check the incorrect answer)

- A. He is a guide who knows Truth and can take us there
- B. Your mother and father are your first satgurus
- C. He is a mature soul who is able to lead others along the path

35.3 We worship the satguru as Siva Himself because Siva shines out from the satguru more brightly than from others.

- True
- False

35.4 A Satguru is a teacher of sat or truth.
(Check the incorrect answer)

- A. Is married
- B. Brings peace and blessings to the world
- C. Is devoted full time to religious life

35.5 The only way that karma can be softened is by the grace of God and guru.
(Check the incorrect answer)

- A. Wisely advise your parents
- B. Initiate you to all become renunciates
- C. Keep the family strong, harmonious and spiritually alive